



Sensibilization of community volunteers in Bamako, commune 3. Photo made by the volunteers

Appeal: MDRML018	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 340,176	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Epidemic
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 2,190,000 people	People Targeted: 429,351 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 13-12-2023	New Operational End Date: 30-06-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 13-12-2023		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 25-03-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 135,954		Targeted Areas: Bamako, Kayes	

Description of the Event

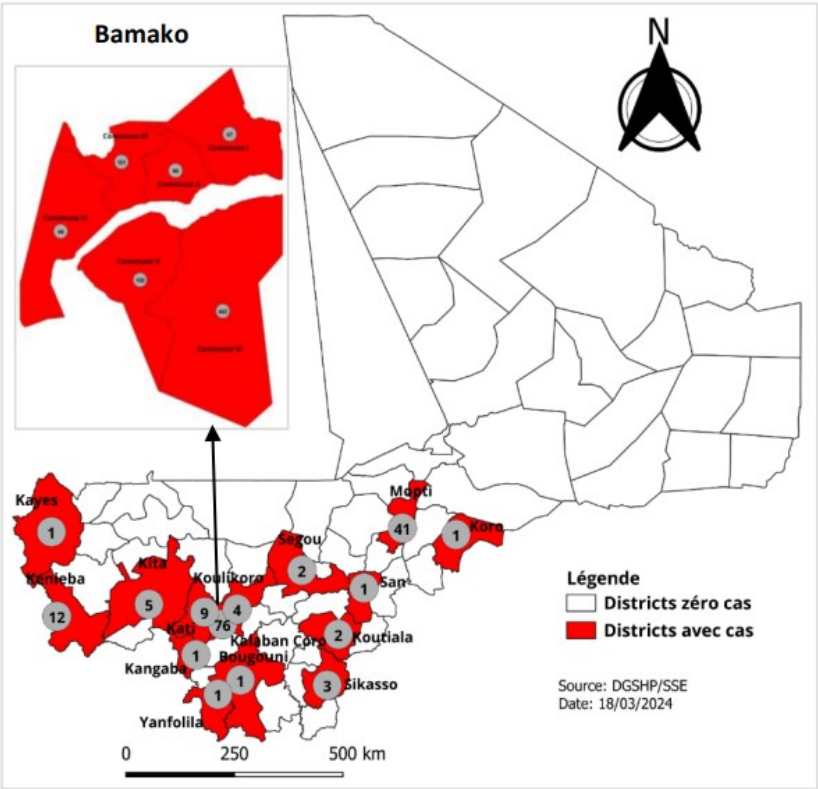


Figure 5 : Cartographie des cas positifs de dengue de S34_2023 à la S11_2024 au Mali.

Date when the trigger was met

2024-03-14

What happened, where and when?

The resurgence of the Dengue epidemic in Mali since 9 September 2023, marks one of the most severe outbreaks in decades. With cases spreading rapidly, the Ministry of Health and Social Development took proactive measures by hosting a press conference on 29 November 2023, to educate the public about the disease's progression and severity. Subsequently, on 13 December 2023, the Public Health Emergency Operations Department was activated, initiating the implementation of an Incident Management System (IMS) specifically tailored for Dengue and Zika.

In response to this crisis, the MRC collaborated closely with governmental bodies, petitioning the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for emergency funding from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). This financial assistance enabled crucial response activities, including risk communication and community engagement efforts, particularly in the Bamako district and the Kayes region.

Community volunteers played a pivotal role in raising awareness about dengue, its symptoms, and preventive measures through various outreach initiatives, including radio broadcasts.

Despite concerted efforts, the epidemiological situation remains challenging. As of the latest update from the Situation Report (SitRep) dated 18 March 2024, there have been 144 suspected cases of Dengue reported this week, with 35 confirmed cases and no fatalities. Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 2,053 suspected cases of Dengue have been reported, including 355 positive cases. Cumulatively, from week 34 of 2023 to week 11 of 2024, there have been 7,422 suspected cases, with 1,163 confirmed cases and 35 deaths, resulting in a fatality rate of 3.01%. This outbreak has affected 21 health districts across six regions.

Fortunately, no cases of Zika virus disease have been recorded thus far. However, there have been 22 confirmed cases since the onset of the epidemic, primarily in the regions of Koulikoro, Sikasso, and the Bamako District.



In a meeting held on 13 March 2024, at the Directorate General of Health, key challenges and objectives were outlined, including ensuring the availability of fumigation supplies, sampling kits, and rapid diagnostic tests at all healthcare levels. Additionally, there was a pressing need for financial support to sustain the Dengue-Zika incident action plan.

To address these challenges effectively, the IMS sought assistance from partners to validate patient care guidelines, adapt training modules for Dengue and Zika, train trainers, facilitate input transportation, train service providers, supervise activities, support districts with insecticide efforts, and continue community engagement initiatives. The Ministry of Health specifically requested the continued involvement of the MRC in response efforts, leveraging the DREF to sustain community volunteer engagement and outreach activities.

3. Situation épidémiologique

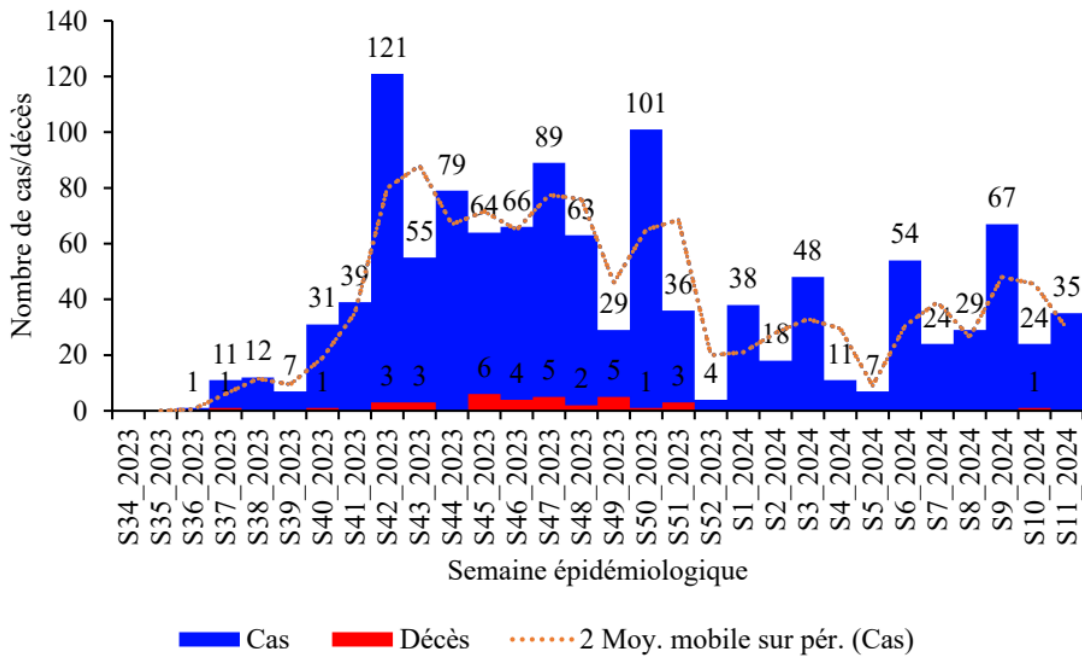


Figure 1: Courbe évolutive des cas/décès liés à la dengue par semaine épidémiologique au Mali de S34-2023 à S11_2024.

Scope and Scale

Since the initiation of volunteer activities in February 2024, there has been a notable surge in suspected cases of dengue, continuing to escalate up to now. Following their training, volunteers commenced awareness initiatives on 2nd February 2024, effectively guiding a larger population towards health centers for testing. This proactive approach holds immense value, as early detection ensures swift treatment, thereby reducing the risk of complications and fatalities. Sustaining the momentum of volunteer-driven awareness campaigns is crucial to further alleviate the situation by minimizing complications and expediting patient care.

The epidemiological landscape remains dynamic, with the week of 11 March 2024, recording 282 suspected cases, including 24 positive cases and one fatality, alongside a severe case hospitalized in the Infectiology and Tropical Diseases Department of the CHU du Point G.

As of 25 March 2024, a total of 337 suspected cases of dengue have been reported, with 55 confirmed cases and no fatalities recorded for that week. From 1st to 12th week of 2024, there have been 2,390 suspected cases of Dengue reported, encompassing 410 positive cases and 01 fatality. Cumulatively, spanning from the onset of the epidemic (S34_2023 to S12_2024), a total of 7,759 suspected cases of Dengue have been documented, with 1,218 confirmed cases and 35 fatalities, culminating in a lethality rate of 2.87%. The impact spans across 21 health districts spanning 06 health regions.

The activities funded by the PPP will be implemented in regions other than those covered by the DREF. This strategic allocation of resources underscores a comprehensive approach to address the spread of dengue effectively.

The MRC remains steadfast in its commitment to community-based health endeavors, including disease prevention and hygiene promotion, further bolstered by supplementary funding from entities like the ECHO and GAVI PPP. Leveraging this support, the MRC



endeavors to implement community surveillance, guided by comprehensive feasibility studies and meticulously structured surveillance protocols. This strategic endeavor is slated for realization subsequent to the conclusion of the DREF in August.

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	Yes
Has the forecasted event materialize?	Yes

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

The Mali Red Cross (MRC) is seeking a three-month extension for the ongoing DREF Dengue/Zika operation, originally set to conclude on 31 March 2024. With the dengue epidemic persisting in Mali, the National Society (NS) is requesting an additional funding allocation of 136,000 CHF.

This extension request is rooted in the continued surge of dengue cases, exemplified by the fluctuating epidemiological curve observed in week 11. It is evident that there remains a substantial knowledge gap among the public regarding Dengue symptoms and treatment. However, the impact of volunteer-led awareness campaigns has been significant, leading to a notable increase in testing rates at healthcare facilities.

Recognizing the efficacy of the ongoing DREF response, the Ministry of Health lauds the Mali Red Cross for their tireless efforts. They are planning an extensive screening campaign for suspected cases and advocate for the continuation of Red Cross volunteer activities. Aligned with the ministry's priorities, the Mali Red Cross proposes to sustain WASH activities, targeting the reduction of disease vectors such as stagnant water and pollution, through community cleanup initiatives.

Furthermore, the NS emphasizes the crucial role of community engagement and empowerment (CEA) activities, particularly in feedback collection and response. Drawing upon the expertise of 350 trained volunteers and community leaders, these initiatives will remain pivotal in ongoing intervention efforts.

In essence, the plea for extension and additional funding is underpinned by the enduring Dengue epidemic in Mali and the demonstrated effectiveness of the ongoing DREF response. The proposed activities, endorsed by the Ministry of Health, aim to address critical challenges and facilitate progress in combating the spread of dengue and Zika within affected communities.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

2023-12-11

Health	<p>A dedicated team of 350 Red Cross volunteers diligently conducts 8 awareness visits each month, totaling 16 comprehensive awareness campaigns. These initiatives are carefully coordinated in partnership with local health centers situated within their respective communities.</p> <p>These proactive Red Cross volunteers go beyond simply disseminating crucial information on Dengue and Zika prevention. They actively facilitate the referral of suspected cases to health centers. Their collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Health are deeply valued, particularly for their crucial role in encouraging a greater number of</p>
---------------	--



	<p>individuals to undergo testing.</p> <p>These commendable initiatives are carried out across the six municipalities of Bamako and Kayes, highlighting the Red Cross's steadfast commitment to serving communities across all regions affected by these infectious diseases.</p>
<p>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</p>	<p>A total of 1,000 second-generation mosquito nets have been procured and distributed, alongside the distribution of 42 sanitation kits.</p> <p>In the selection process, priority was given to vulnerable populations for mosquito net allocation. Specifically, internal displacement sites in Faladjè and the Mabilé center, as well as women and children in Bollé women's prison, were identified. These locations face heightened exposure to dengue and Zika. Following recommendations from epidemiological surveillance officials at the Bamako Regional Health Directorate and the Head of the Prevention Division of the National Malaria Control Program, the displaced camp and Bollé prison were selected in Commune VI.</p> <p>Furthermore, 28 cleaning days were orchestrated across the six municipalities of Bamako and Kayes. These endeavors aimed at tackling Dengue sources, notably pollution and stagnant water.</p> <p>Concerning the procurement of WASH kits, municipalities played a pivotal role in identifying established associations actively engaged in sanitation initiatives within the commune. These associations spearheaded cleanliness campaigns to combat Dengue and Zika.</p> <p>Additionally, these groups and associations received sanitation materials to bolster their cleanliness campaigns. Continuous support will be imperative to ensure the longevity of their crucial endeavors in vector control.</p>
<p>Community Engagement And Accountability</p>	<p>Community engagement activities have successfully rallied the community to combat the epidemic. These efforts, coupled with the establishment of feedback mechanisms and rumor monitoring, have played a decisive role in fostering a proactive response. Moreover, the training and involvement of community leaders have empowered local actors to take charge of addressing Dengue and Zika outbreaks. House-to-house visits have further amplified awareness and promoted preventive measures at the grassroots level.</p> <p>It has become apparent that many communities lack in-depth knowledge about Dengue and Zika, often confusing Dengue with malaria. Furthermore, misinformation has perpetuated the misconception that individuals must bear the cost of diagnostic tests. Thus, the dissemination of accurate information has emerged as a pivotal aspect of our response efforts. Moving forward, ensuring widespread access to reliable information is paramount for effectively combating these epidemics.</p>
<p>Coordination</p>	<p>The NS participates in weekly strategic meetings with the Ministry of Health and other governmental stakeholders. Internally, there is regular coordination within the team, with coordination meetings organized every Monday. Additionally, close collaboration is established with the IFRC cluster, involving coordination meetings every Wednesday with the Ministry of Health's participation. This involvement of the Ministry of Health in all phases of the operation ensures effective collaboration and a concerted approach to addressing the dengue epidemic.</p>
<p>National Society Readiness</p>	<p>The National Society (NS) responded by mobilizing 350 volunteers across the six municipalities of the Bamako district and the Kayes district in the Kayes region. This mobilization underwent a meticulous pre-selection process, considering volunteers' skills and availability, drawing upon valuable insights from previous interventions.</p> <p>These 350 volunteers underwent comprehensive training on dengue, including symptom recognition and community engagement techniques. Subsequently, the Red Cross sections commenced implementation following meetings with social mobilization committees. These meetings facilitated discussions on prioritizing social mobilization</p>



	<p>efforts within the current epidemic, a practice established in previous months.</p> <p>Furthermore, these dedicated volunteers organized awareness activities and coordinated cleanup days to mitigate the spread of dengue within their communities.</p>
Resource Mobilization	<p>The National Society shared the response plan with Red Cross Movement partners in country. Unfortunately, none of the partners have funds available for the intervention.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC maintains a steadfast presence in Mali through its Coordinating Delegate for Operations and Programmes. Furthermore, a cluster office located in Niamey extends support to Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire. This cluster office comprises 15 dedicated staff members, proficient in Program Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER), finance, National Society Development (NSD), and Community Engagement and Accountability, providing remote assistance to the MRC.</p> <p>In response to the Dengue outbreak, the IFRC forged a close collaboration with the NS, diligently exploring various funding opportunities within the Red Cross Movement's network in country. Moreover, the IFRC actively engaged in a conference organized by the Ministry of Health on 29 November, offering invaluable insights and expertise. Additionally, the IFRC played a pivotal role in the development of the DREF request, underscoring its unwavering commitment to supporting Mali during times of crisis.</p> <p>Moreover, an Operations Manager Surge was deployed for two months to reinforce the ongoing efforts, she provided hands-on support to the operation, meticulously overseeing financial management, ensuring the quality of implementation, facilitating communication with the Ministry of Health, and supervising reporting processes. Her expertise and guidance significantly enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation.</p> <p>Furthermore, several monitoring visits were conducted during the DREF, including visits of the PMER Officer of Niamey and the Health delegate of IFRC. These visits afforded valuable opportunities to evaluate progress, address challenges, and ensure alignment with the operation's objectives.</p> <p>Additionally, during the period of implementation, comprehensive DREF training sessions were conducted for all key coordinators and regional branch staff. These sessions covered various essential sections to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage and execute the operation. By ensuring that all key personnel were well-trained and prepared, these sessions played a crucial role in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The following partner National Societies are present in Mali: Danish, Netherlands, Canadian, Belgian, Luxembourg, Spanish Red Cross Societies and the Qatari Red Crescent. Most PNSs have been supporting the MRC for several years and have expressed concern about the current Dengue outbreak. PNSs have explored funding and crisis modifier opportunities, but unfortunately there are no opportunities currently. For this reason, they recommended that NS applies for a DREF and that the IFRC assists in this process.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has many years of experience in Mali and works mainly in conflict-affected areas in central and northern Mali. The ICRC has not yet developed specific plans to deal with the dengue outbreak, as the majority of cases are in areas where the PNSs and IFRC are supporting the NS.



Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>Government has requested international assistance</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National authorities</p>	<p>Since the onset of the dengue epidemic, the Ministry of Health (DGSHP) has developed an intervention plan against the outbreak, encompassing the reinforcement of all key sectors such as hospital care for patients, laboratory services, and community engagement.</p> <p>Coordination efforts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing weekly meetings - Extending invitations to regional representatives for weekly technical meetings - Developing and sharing Situation Reports (SITREPs) - Advocating for resource mobilization from partners. <p>Other key actions involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isolation and management of confirmed cases at home - Fumigation and insecticide spraying in the Bamako district - Surveillance and investigation of cases.
<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>In the ongoing effort to combat the spread of Dengue and Zika viruses in Sikasso, Action contre la Faim has been actively engaging and training community leaders. Their involvement is pivotal in raising awareness, disseminating information, and implementing preventive measures within local communities.</p> <p>Simultaneously, in the Bamako district, JPHIEGO-funded research delves into the intricate dynamics of virus transmission and associated factors with Dengue. This comprehensive study aims to deepen our understanding of the disease's spread, enabling more effective intervention strategies.</p> <p>Furthermore, a rapid assessment initiative, supported by USAID, is underway to gauge the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the population in the Bamako district. This evaluation will provide crucial insights into public awareness levels and identify areas for targeted education and outreach efforts.</p> <p>Adding to these efforts, CDC Africa has generously provided 2,000 rapid tests, which will greatly enhance diagnostic capabilities in the region. These tests represent a significant step forward in the fight against Dengue and Zika, enabling prompt identification and treatment of cases.</p> <p>Together, these initiatives underscore a collaborative and proactive approach in tackling the challenges posed by these infectious diseases. Through community engagement, rigorous research, and strategic assessment, we aim to mitigate the impact of Dengue and Zika, safeguarding the health and well-being of our communities.</p>
<p>Are there major coordination mechanism in place?</p> <p>There is a coordination mechanism within the Ministry of Health (DGSHP) led by the Surveillance Section of the Disease Control Sub-Directorate, of which the Red Cross is a member. Weekly coordination meetings are held on Wednesdays and all key partners are invited.</p>	

Needs (Gaps) Identified



The Ministry of Health has outlined critical healthcare needs during a recent meeting, addressing ongoing challenges as Dengue cases persist. Here are the key points highlighted during the meeting:



- Patient Care and Laboratory Services: There is a pressing need to bolster patient care for those hospitalized with Dengue and to enhance laboratory services for timely diagnosis and treatment. Additionally, effective communication and community mobilization efforts are vital to raise awareness and curb the spread of the disease. Leveraging the resources and field presence of the NS, which operates under the Ministry of Health, could significantly bolster these efforts, particularly in community health, prevention, and epidemic response initiatives.

-Awareness and Education: The Ministry of Health has called upon the MRC to intensify efforts in raising awareness about Dengue symptoms, prevention measures, and response strategies. Many community members lack comprehensive knowledge of the disease, and some may not recognize its symptoms. Red Cross volunteers, particularly at community level, are crucial in disseminating accurate information and providing assistance to active cases.

Vector Control: Efforts in vector control remain critical in combating dengue transmission. However, these efforts have been limited due to resource constraints, potentially contributing to the proliferation of disease-carrying vectors. Addressing this gap in vector control resources is paramount to effectively curbing the spread of Dengue.

-Delayed activities and data reporting: Several challenges, including delays in awareness-raising activities and incomplete data reporting within the healthcare system, have hampered the response efforts. These delays and gaps in reporting pose significant challenges to decision-making by healthcare managers and hinder the overall response to the epidemic.

-Need for ongoing surveillance and Research: The current situation underscores the need for continuous surveillance of arboviruses, including Dengue, and comprehensive prevalence data in the region. Past outbreaks and ongoing cases in Mali highlight the importance of ongoing research and surveillance efforts to monitor disease transmission and inform effective response strategies.

In summary, addressing these ongoing health needs requires a multi-faceted approach, including strengthening patient care, enhancing laboratory services, intensifying awareness and education efforts, bolstering vector control measures, improving data reporting systems, and conducting ongoing surveillance and research activities. Collaboration between the Ministry of Health and organizations like the MRC is essential to effectively address these challenges and mitigate the impact of Dengue outbreaks in Mali.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Areas of standing water and polluted neighborhoods are good breeding grounds for Dengue fever. Bamako, which is the epicenter of the epidemic, also has certain vulnerability factors, these are arborists installed everywhere along public roads and on the banks of the river, these spaces are also shelters for mosquitoes. Added to this is the practice of market gardening activities along the river, which can create an environment favourable to mosquito reproduction.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health has stressed the importance of cleaning neighborhoods and disinfecting areas. Community-based vector control is necessary to reduce Dengue transmission.

In 2023 there was not enough vector control, nor was there enough large-scale communication until December 2023. With the launch of this DREF, this will make it possible in 2024 to contribute to vector control and strengthen communication and community mobilization against dengue.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The population's lack of familiarity with the signs and symptoms of Dengue, with some individuals confusing it with malaria, underscores the importance of engaging community leaders for effective mobilization and rumor management.

During the extension period, community engagement will remain central to addressing the current challenges posed by the Dengue epidemic. Recognizing the significant misunderstanding among the Malian population regarding Dengue, efforts will intensify to strengthen community engagement strategies.

Community leaders, who have undergone specialized training as part of the DREF, will continue to play a central role in disseminating accurate information and raising awareness about Dengue and Zika. They will serve as reliable intermediaries for gathering community feedback, ensuring that concerns and rumors are addressed promptly and effectively.

Furthermore, the development and implementation of targeted radio messages will be prioritized to reach a broader audience across various communities, especially those in remote regions. These messages will not only educate but also encourage proactive community participation in preventive measures and early detection efforts.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation of community engagement initiatives will be paramount during the extension period. This will



enable adjustments based on community feedback, ensuring that strategies remain relevant and impactful.

Overall, community engagement will be the cornerstone of the extension period, facilitating informed decision-making, empowering communities, and ultimately contributing to the effective management of the Dengue epidemic in Mali.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF initiative is aimed at supporting the Ministry of Health in mitigating the spread of the Dengue epidemic in Mali, specifically targeting assistance to 429,351 individuals in the regions of Bamako and Kayes during 6 months. This endeavor entails mobilizing 350 trained and equipped volunteers to sustain disease prevention efforts and conduct vector control activities.

Operation strategy rationale

Amidst the continuous recording of dengue cases, it's crucial not to underestimate the importance of extending and expanding the DREF response for an additional three months. This urgency is particularly heightened given the ongoing dengue epidemic. The steadfast support of the MRC to the Ministry of Health in this effort is indispensable.

The selected intervention areas in Bamako and Kayes were carefully chosen based on critical factors such as dengue prevalence, population density, and limited support from other partners. These regions demand sustained attention and concerted efforts to effectively combat the disease's spread, especially with new cases emerging persistently.

The participation of 350 trained community volunteers from the Red Cross is essential for executing awareness activities, including home visits and active case surveillance. These volunteers serve as crucial frontline responders, armed with the requisite knowledge and skills to educate communities on Dengue prevention, symptoms, and treatment. Their continued dedication is paramount to ensuring that vital information reaches every corner of the targeted municipalities and districts.

Furthermore, the distribution of sanitation kits and the organization of sanitation days underscore the significance of maintaining a clean environment to curb mosquito breeding sites. These initiatives have already yielded significant progress in enhancing hygiene standards in neighborhoods, and their continuation is indispensable for sustainable advancement.

By actively engaging community leaders and establishing robust feedback mechanisms, the Red Cross ensures that community voices are heard, and concerns are swiftly addressed. Additionally, the dissemination of radio messages amplifies the impact of awareness efforts, reaching a broader audience and reinforcing key messages on dengue prevention and control.

As the response advances, it's crucial to reflect on lessons learned and adapt strategies accordingly. Organizing a comprehensive workshop on lessons learned at the conclusion of the intervention period will facilitate knowledge dissemination and inform future interventions.

In essence, extending the DREF response and perpetuating awareness activities and sanitation initiatives are critical strides within the ongoing strategy. Sustaining these efforts is imperative to safeguard public health and mitigate the epidemic's impact in affected regions.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The MRC will respond to the Ministry of Health's request for assistance in combating the Dengue epidemic, focusing on the two regions of Bamako and Kayes. The primary intervention will target 7 municipalities, namely the I, II, III, IV, V, VI municipalities of Bamako, and the Kayes district in the Region of Kayes.

Response actions will target households through awareness sessions in homes, community leaders through the organization of community meetings, and public places (schools, markets, bus stations, etc.) through sanitation activities and the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets to selected households in high-risk areas in collaboration with the national malaria control programme. All these actions aim to strengthen community knowledge of Dengue prevention measures and vector control. Activities will be carried out in close collaboration with state technical services, ensuring an exact response to the demand.

The main at-risk groups prioritized for this intervention will be young children, pregnant women, and the elderly, as well as people with



reduced mobility who are more exposed to the vector than other groups because they tend to rest or have very limited movements during the day when the vector is active.

The most affected age group will also be monitored to assess areas or public spaces, schools, etc., where awareness efforts should be focused.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The target under this plan follows the current trend of the outbreak and selected areas are part of the most affected locations, currently reporting a high number of cases, while the needed support is not yet met.

Indeed, Bamako is the epicenter of the epidemic from onset with 558 cases out of 600 according to the latest Sitrep on 48th epidemiological week. The region has also been the one recorded Zika cases. Knowing that the class of Zika and Dengue viruses is arbovirus.

Total Targeted Population

Women	124,501	Rural	0%
Girls (under 18)	98,635	Urban	100%
Men	110,564	People with disabilities (estimated)	14%
Boys (under 18)	95,635		
Total targeted population	429,351		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Displacement of populations to the intervention area.	Adaptation of the programme of voluntary activities, taking into account the sites of displaced persons.
Bamako and Koulikoro regions are reporting Zika confirmed cases. Dengue and Zika both diseases are caused by arboviruses worldwide. There have been reported cases of co-infections. Explain the 4 different strains of Dengue and the risks of more serious consequences in case of repeated infections.	However, because there is still too much uncertainty about the Zika virus. The Ministry of Health has not clearly articulated the support required from partners. The NS will mainly keep a monitoring of the situation and coordinate with Governments on the options way forward. If the Zika outbreak worsens, the NS will provide an operational update to adjust the plan that integrate the Zika intervention. For now, prevention measures are quite similar for Dengue and Zika, messages in the communities of Bamako could be inclusive of Zika. Adapted from those available from MoH.
The regions of Bamako and Koulikoro have reported cases of Zika virus contamination alongside Dengue. Both diseases are caused by arboviruses, and co-infection cases have been documented. Understanding the four strains of Dengue is crucial, as repeated infections can lead to severe consequences. These strains, known as serotypes 1, 2, 3, and 4, can result in lasting immunity against the specific serotype a person has been infected with. However, subsequent infections with different serotypes can trigger a heightened immune response, leading to severe complications like dengue shock syndrome.	The mitigation measures entail closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with governments to assess the required support. If the Zika epidemic escalates, the plan will be updated accordingly. Currently, prevention efforts largely mirror those for Dengue, with messages in Bamako communities potentially incorporating Zika-related information sourced from the Ministry of Health.



Co-infection with multiple dengue serotypes, along with Zika virus, increases the risk of severe outcomes. Therefore, careful monitoring and medical intervention are essential to mitigate public health risks.	
Households refuse home visits.	Communicate with community leaders prior to the start of the event.
Volunteers are relocating to other areas after training; therefore, they are not available for the intervention.	Rigorous selection process where volunteers are invited to provide feedback on their plans.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Mali is facing a situation with security risks with attacks in central and northern Mali. The regions selected for these interventions are relatively safe and fewer attacks have been reported recently. Bamako presents relatively low security risks. For Kayes region only the district of Kayes has been selected and this is a relatively safe area of Kayes.

Mali Red Cross has a security focal point who closely cooperates with ICRC and IFRC security focal points. For all field missions to Kayes a briefing will be done to assure that staff members are fully aware of preventive measures. In general, Mali Red Cross has a good level of acceptance by the community thanks to its community presence.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Budget: CHF 116,437

Targeted Persons: 4,293,511

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in Dengue prevention and response	350	350
# of people reached by Dengue awareness campaigns	429,351	262,500
# of suspected Dengue cases referred to health centres	900	763

Progress Towards Outcome

Initially, a two-day training session for trainers was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Following this training, volunteers underwent two-day training sessions covering various topics such as community epidemic preparedness, symptoms, community engagement, reporting, and referrals. Since the start of the activities to date, some 262,500 individuals have been reached through awareness campaigns. Volunteers, after their training, initiated awareness activities on 2 February 2024. The efforts of these volunteers in raising awareness have led to more people being directed to health centers for testing. This is advantageous as early detection of the disease facilitates prompt treatment, resulting in fewer complications and deaths. Continuing the volunteers' awareness campaigns will further contribute to reducing complication rates and ensuring prompt patient care.

These awareness campaigns were conducted through home visits, group discussions, and sessions organized in schools. This multidimensional approach has reached various segments of the community, maximizing the impact of awareness efforts. Additionally, weekly epidemiological data indicated a notable increase in the number of people seeking testing at health centers, underscoring the



effectiveness of awareness initiatives in promoting proactive healthcare-seeking behaviors within the community.

Moreover, volunteers played a crucial role in directing suspected cases to health centers, with a total of 763 suspected cases referred. This proactive approach has enabled the rapid identification of potential cases, facilitating prompt medical intervention and preventing the spread of the disease.

The following activities will continue:

- Community sensitization, door-to-door visits, and educational talks in households, schools, and bus stations
- Supervision activities
- Community meetings
- Data sharing meetings.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 66,776

Targeted Persons: 85,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of MRC and HQ committees equipped with a sanitation kits.	8	8
# of sanitation days organized	56	28
# of people reached by clean-up activities	85,000	47,769
# of households that received mosquito nets	500	500

Progress Towards Outcome

A total of 1,000 mosquito nets and 42 sanitation kits were procured and distributed to vulnerable populations. Priority for mosquito net distribution was given to internally displaced persons in Faladjè and the Mabilé center, as well as women and children at the Bollé women's prison, all identified for their heightened exposure to Dengue and Zika viruses. This selection was based on recommendations from epidemiological surveillance authorities.

Working closely with Wash committees from various municipalities, the local Red Cross branches ensured the effective utilization and storage of hygiene kits. They also provided guidance and support during clean-up days, which targeted mosques, churches, markets, main squares, health centers, and schools. Additionally, recognized community associations received sanitation materials to organize clean-up campaigns, contributing to vector control efforts.

The active involvement of the Malian Red Cross WASH coordinator ensured smooth implementation and coordination of these activities. Overall, these clean-up initiatives have proven instrumental in combating vector-borne diseases, benefitting a total of 47,769 individuals. Moving forward, the continuation of clean-up days will be crucial for sustaining progress and further strengthening vector control measures.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 60,130

Targeted Persons: 4,293,511



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in CEA	350	350
# of community leaders involved in the response	266	266
# of Radio messages broadcasted	400	200

Progress Towards Outcome

Community engagement activities have successfully mobilized communities to combat the epidemic. These efforts, coupled with the establishment of feedback systems and rumor collection, have played a crucial role in promoting a proactive response. Furthermore, training and involvement of community leaders have empowered local stakeholders to take ownership of the fight against Dengue and Zika epidemics. Home visits have further reinforced awareness and preventive measures at the grassroots level.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, radio spots were developed in three languages: French, Bambara, and Soninke. These spots were aired on four local radio stations, each broadcasting 50 times, totaling 200 broadcasts. This initiative effectively reached a broader audience, particularly in remote areas, including those in Bamako and Kayes.

Additionally, 266 community leaders from the 7 communes (Bamako and Kayes) were trained in recognizing Dengue symptoms and community engagement. These leaders were actively involved in the entire response effort, enhancing community awareness and adopting a more comprehensive approach to epidemic control.

Moreover, feedback and rumors were systematically collected from the community, enabling prompt responses to concerns and ensuring accurate dissemination of information.

However, it has become evident that many communities lack in-depth knowledge of Dengue and Zika, often confusing Dengue with malaria. Furthermore, misinformation has led to the misconception that individuals must bear the cost of diagnostic tests. Therefore, the dissemination of accurate information is crucial in our response efforts. In the future, ensuring widespread access to reliable information is paramount to effectively combatting these epidemics.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 35,420

Targeted Persons: 360

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of missions conducted	2	2
# of months of surge deployment	2	2

Progress Towards Outcome

The Mali Red Cross has received crucial support from the IFRC to enhance its response efforts:

1. IFRC's in-country assistance, coordinated by an Operation Coordinator, ensures effective implementation of response activities.
2. Remote support across various sectors and monitoring missions enables comprehensive oversight and intervention.
3. Deployment of the Public Health surge by IFRC strengthen public health capacities for immediate response and containment efforts.
4. Assistance in data management, monitoring, and reporting from IFRC facilitates accurate tracking and evaluation of interventions, enabling informed decision-making.



Overall, IFRC's support significantly enhances Mali Red Cross's response capabilities, enabling effective mitigation of the ongoing epidemics.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 61,414

Targeted Persons: 360

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Lesson learnt organized	1	-

Progress Towards Outcome

The Malian Red Cross is actively engaged in various activities aimed at strengthening the development of its National Society (NS):

- Monitoring the epidemic situation is a top priority, allowing the organization to track disease trends and inform effective response efforts efficiently.
- Launch meetings with the general directorates are organized to initiate operational surveillance, ensuring that intervention activities are coordinated across all regions.
- Coordination with local representatives and the Ministry of Health is essential to align intervention activities and maximize impact on the ground.
- Collaboration with Movement partners and other stakeholders in the response enhances resources and expertise, promoting a comprehensive approach to combating epidemics.
- Strengthening NS capacities through tailored training programs is crucial. The NS adopts an accelerated programme, starting with a 3-day Training of Trainers (ToT) session. Subsequently, cascade trainings take place simultaneously in the 7 communes, each lasting 3 days. This ensures alignment across regions and enhances the capacity of intervention teams to effectively implement planned activities.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 350 volunteers have been involved in this response. They have been ensuring communication on Dengue fever in the community, symptoms, preventive measures, and referral of suspected cases to health facilities. Volunteers will also provide feedback from the communities on the epidemic and the MRC intervention.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

A Public Health surge has been deployed for two months to support the NS in the implementation of the response. For the extension a new Public Health surge, second rotation, will be deployed.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

All purchases have been and will be made by the Mali Red Cross in accordance with IFRC policies and procedures. The purchases are for training materials, hygiene kits and mosquito nets.

How will this operation be monitored?

The operation has been led by one of the doctors of the health department of Mali Red Cross. This doctor has been closely monitored and supervised the situation. He will continue to do so during the extension period.



Each team of 25 volunteers has one supervisor, hence a total of 14 supervisors have been trained and deployed.

The supervisors have been monitoring and supervising the activities and have been guiding volunteers to improve their messaging if needed. Through the feedback and complaint mechanism, feedback will be collected. These have been discussed by the supervisors with volunteers and prevention messages will be adapted accordingly. The supervisors report on the activities to the team at the Mali Red Cross headquarters. The NS has two PMER staff who monitor the project. IFRC has a PMER based in Niamey who provides remote support and will visit Mali during the operation. At the end of the response a lessons' learned workshop will be organized where the entire operation will be assessed.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Together with the Communication Department, the activities have been and will continue to be reported through the different communication channels of the NS. Partners have been briefed during data-sharing meetings.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRMLxxx - Mali Red Cross Dengue outbreak Mali

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	243 342
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	116 437
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	66 776
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	60 130
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	96 834
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	35 420
National Society Strengthening	61 414
TOTAL BUDGET	340 176

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

National Society contact: Sidi Toure, Program Director, sidi.toure@croix-rouge.ml, +22376051901

IFRC Appeal Manager: Thierry Balloy, Head of Delegation, Cluster Niamey, thierry.balloy@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Dorien Dolman, Operations and Programs Coordinator, dorien.dolman@ifrc.org, +22780063472

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Dorien Dolman, Operations and Programs Coordinator, dorien.dolman@ifrc.org, +22780063472

Media Contact: Rita WANJIRU NYAGA, Senior officer communication, rita.nyaga@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

